

--Another class of "soft" aliphatic polyesters are based on repeating succinate units such as polybutylene succinate (PBS), polybutylene succinate adipate (PBSA), and polyethylene succinate (PES). Each of these succinate-based aliphatic polyesters is manufactured by Showa High Polymer, Ltd. and sold under the trade name BIONELLE. PBS (Bionolle 1001) has a glass transition temperature of -30° C and a melting point of 114° C. PBSA (Bionolle 3001) has a glass transition temperature of -35° C and a melting point of 95° C. PES (Bionolle 6000) has a glass transition temperature of -4° C and a melting point of 102° C. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 14, 16 and 18 to read as follows:

1. (Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a sheet or film formed from a biodegradable thermoplastic composition that includes at least one thermoplastic biodegradable polymer and at least one type of filler particles, wherein the sheet or film is stretched during processing so as to result in cavitation comprising tiny cavities in the vicinity of the filler particles.

14. (Amended) An article of manufacture as defined in claim 13, wherein at least a portion of the soft thermoplastic biodegradable polymer comprises thermoplastic starch that consists essentially of thermoplastic starch that is free of plasticizers.

16. (Amended) An article of manufacture consisting essentially of a sheet or film formed from a biodegradable thermoplastic composition that comprises at least one hydrophobic thermoplastic biodegradable polymer, wherein the sheet or film is water-resistant and has been textured so as to have dead-fold of at least about 70%.

18. (Amended) An article of manufacture comprising a sheet or film formed from a biodegradable thermoplastic composition that comprises at least one hydrophobic thermoplastic biodegradable polymer and at least one type of filler particles included in an amount so that the sheet or film has dead-fold of at least about 70%, wherein the sheet or film is water-resistant.

Please add new claims 24-38 as follows:

24. An article of manufacture as defined in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the filler particles protrude from a surface of the sheet or film.

25. An article of manufacture as defined in claim 24, wherein the particles that protrude from the surface of the sheet or film have particle size diameters that are greater than the thickness of the sheet or film.

26. An article of manufacture as defined in claim 13, wherein the stiff thermoplastic biodegradable polymer comprises at least one stiff synthetic biodegradable polymer and wherein the soft thermoplastic biodegradable polymer comprises at least one soft biodegradable synthetic polymer.

27. An article of manufacture as defined in claim 1, wherein the sheet or film is laminated to a substrate.

28. An article of manufacture as defined in claim 27, wherein the substrate comprises a sheet.

29. An article of manufacture as defined in claim 16, wherein the biodegradable thermoplastic composition comprises at least one stiff thermoplastic biodegradable polymer and at least one soft synthetic thermoplastic biodegradable polymer.

30. An article of manufacture as defined in claim 18, wherein the biodegradable thermoplastic composition comprises at least one stiff synthetic hydrophobic thermoplastic biodegradable polymer and at least one soft synthetic thermoplastic biodegradable polymer.

31. An article of manufacture as defined in claim 18, wherein at least a portion of the filler particles protrude from a surface of the sheet or film.

32. An article of manufacture comprising a sheet or film formed from a biodegradable thermoplastic composition that includes at least one thermoplastic biodegradable polymer and at least one type of filler particles, wherein at least a portion of the filler particles protrude from a surface of the sheet or film.

33. An article of manufacture as defined in claim 32, wherein the filler particles comprise at least one type of inorganic filler particles, and wherein the sheet or film is stretched during processing so as to result in cavitation comprising tiny cavities in the vicinity of the filler particles.

34. An article of manufacture as defined in claim 32, wherein at least a portion of the filler particles have particle size diameters that exceed the thickness of the sheet or film.

35. An article of manufacture as defined in claim 32, wherein at least a portion of the thermoplastic biodegradable polymer comprises at least one stiff synthetic thermoplastic biodegradable polymer and at least one soft synthetic thermoplastic biodegradable polymer.

36. An article of manufacture comprising a sheet or film formed from a biodegradable thermoplastic composition that consists essentially of at least one synthetic thermoplastic biodegradable polymer and at least one type of filler particles included in an amount so that the sheet or film has dead-fold of at least about 70%.

37. An article of manufacture as defined in claim 36, wherein the synthetic thermoplastic biodegradable polymer comprises at least one stiff synthetic thermoplastic biodegradable polymer and at least one soft synthetic thermoplastic biodegradable polymer.

38. An article of manufacture as defined in claim 36, wherein the sheet or film has dead-fold of at least about 80%.